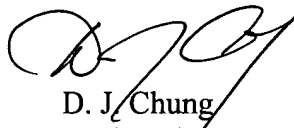


**REMARKS**

The applicant traverses the Election/Restriction requirement. Nonetheless, to facilitate the prosecution of the present patent application, the applicant elects, without prejudice, Group I, Claims 1-21 for further prosecution. Non-elected Claims 22-26 are withdrawn herein.

The applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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08/23/2004

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